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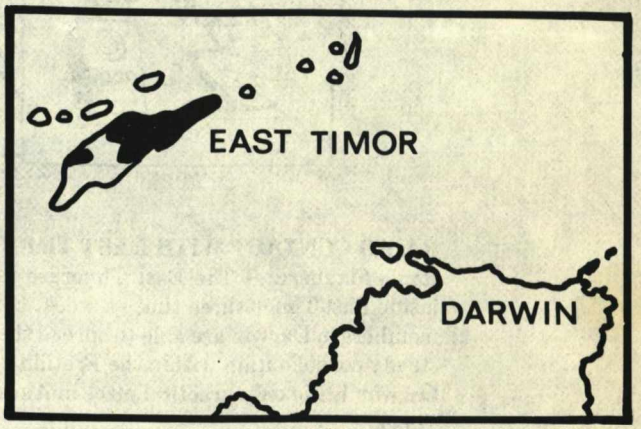
CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR

(DARWIN BRANCH)



What we do ~ How you can help.

BACKGROUND: East Timor is just over the horizon — only 600 kilometres north-west of Darwin. It had been a Portuguese colony for over 400 years until 28th November 1975, when the independent Democratic Republic of East Timor was proclaimed at a ceremony in the capital, Dili.

Indonesia invaded the new nation on December 7th of that year. The massacres during and after that invasion have been well publicised, but it is not so well known that the people of East Timor still control 80% of the country and that the Fretilin Central Committee is in regular radio contact with Darwin.

DARWIN'S CLOSE TIES WITH TIMOR: During the second world war, 200 Australian commandos were able to operate with impunity in Japanese occupied Timor. Our commandos relied on the loyalty of the Timorese villagers. It is estimated that over 40,000 Timorese died in those years, many in reprisals for sheltering Australians, others in RAAF bombing.

In more recent times East Timor became a favored vacation island for Territorians, conveniently accessible by twice weekly TAA flights. The mayor of Darwin and Dili exchanged visits and the Darwin to Dili yacht race became an annual event. Visitors confirmed what our soldiers had discovered, that the Timorese held a special affection for the Australian people.

The work of the Campaign for Independent East Timor has maintained that close bond between our two countries, despite the obstruction and betrayal by the Federal government.

FRETILIN RADIO LINK CHALLENGE
"Age" Dec. 30, 1976
DESPITE HEAVY CASUALTIES, A DOGGED REAR-GUARD ACTION HAS REPELLED THE ATTACK AND FORCED A STALEMATE..
DARWIN
LISTENING TO FRETILIN EH ?!?
No! THE CRICKET...

RADIO CONTACT WITH EAST TIMOR:

Radio Maubere — The East Timorese radio station, Radio Maubere, broadcasts from a secret location inside East Timor three times a week. By monitoring this radio, tape recording every broadcast, C.I.E.T. members in Darwin are able to spread the news of the continuing war, of Indonesian atrocities, and of the steady consolidation within the Fretilin held areas. Radio Maubere is not a powerful signal and therefore **Darwin is the only practical place in Australia to monitor the news from the Democratic Republic of East Timor.**

Dissemination of this news counters the clumsy Indonesian propaganda which seeks to persuade the world that the war is over! If you have a large enough radio with an extended aerial in a favorable area of Darwin, tune in to 3.804 MHZ, 75 meter band any Sunday, Wednesday and Friday 6.30 p.m. — 7.30 p.m. The Campaign for Independent East Timor invites you to hear live broadcasts of Radio Maubere at our 'listening post,' 14 Harney Street, Ludmilla, at the above times.

Monitoring Radio Maubere is perfectly legal and involves at the most 1½ hours one evening per week. Please ring 81 8795 if you can help in any way. Persons with radio experience would be especially welcome!

The Public Receiver: Immediately after the bloody Indonesian invasion, Fretilin continued to send messages to Australia, using Portuguese army radios which had earlier been taken to the hills. The messages were picked up on the Telecom frequencies of the Darwin Outpost Radio. Telecom relayed these urgent messages to the addressees. In September 1976, on orders from Canberra, the service was abruptly stopped.

A national 'Let East Timor Speak' fund enabled Darwin C.I.E.T. to establish a radio, tuned to the Telecom frequencies, to reveive the messages and see that they were delivered. This 'public receiver' was originally in the office of the Miscellaneous Workers Union and later at the 16 mile for better reception. There we continue to receive messages twice a week — messages addressed to the United Nations, foreign countries, and newspapers. This operation is open to the public but its legality remains unsure.

'The Illegal Radio': The most difficult task undertaken by the Darwin C.I.E.T. is the establishment and continued successful operation of an illegal two-way radio transceiver. Each transmission involves a 'cat and mouse' game between C.I.E.T. members and the authorities — a farce if it was not so deadly serious. The radio, financed by a worldwide appeal, has enabled journalists to interview Alarico Fernandes, Minister for Information of the Fretilin Central Committee. Taped messages from Timorese in Australia were also relayed to their relatives in the Timorese controlled 80%. Ken Fry MHR spoke on our first transmission, sending greetings from many Canberra politicians. Peter Duncan, Attorney-General of South Australia has also sent greetings via this radio.

Why an 'illegal' radio?: The Australian government appeasement of Indonesian aggression means that C.I.E.T. has constantly been refused a licence for a two-way radio. Twice previously similar radios set up by C.I.E.T. in the Darwin area have been siezed and the operators charged.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

East Timor News Agency: Founded by Australian journalist Roger East (murdered by Indonesian troops) ETNA publishes the fortnightly **East Timor News.** This paper informs Australia and the world of latest developments inside Timor and the region — of which Darwin is a part. We urgently need people to help boost the circulation of East Timor News in the Territory. Why not get your church, school, club or union to take out a bulk subscription?

The Timor Information Centre: Books, badges, car stickers, tapes, maps & a record of the magnificent national song, 'Foho Ramelau' are on sale at the Information Centre which opened in October '76. The latest war reports are also displayed there.

Speakers: We have speakers who are prepared to speak at any function, school, worksite etc on any aspect of the Timor conflict.

Local Demonstrations: Our largest so far was a rally outside the Indonesian Consulate in Bennett Street on the anniversary of the invasion. At the Darwin Airport we distribute pamphlets to passengers using the Merpati flight to or from Bali. The Darwin — Ambon yacht race must be actively opposed.

Regional Struggles: A new aspect is the appeals for support from the anti-imperialist struggles in New Caledonia, New Hebrides and West New Guinea. These are people inspired by the courageous Timorese resistance.

Meetings: These many topics are more than enough to fill the agenda of the monthly C.I.E.T. meetings, held on the first Thursday in every month. New members or interested friends are always welcome.

Socials: In conjunction with the Fretilin supporters in Darwin, we have even been known to let our hair down and have a party. Don't miss our next!

Conclusion: So there you have it — a rough outline of the continuing activities of Darwin C.I.E.T. There is no space here to describe the history making day to day drama, heroism and tragedy as we hear it from our nearest neighbor just over the horizon. However we stress that the Campaign for Independent East Timor is not against the Indonesian people. Neither are we aligned with any political party, believe it or not!

Fretilin is prepared for a long struggle and C.I.E.T. is prepared to provide all the services Fretilin request as long as that struggle continues. For this we need the moral, physical and financial support of the majority of Australian people who disassociate themselves from the shameful role of our government.

Join us — VICTORY IS CERTAIN!

Demonstration — Darwin, Dec 7th 1976

SUBSCRIBE TO 'EAST TIMOR NEWS' — $5 FOR SIX MONTHS TO EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY, 4th FLOOR, 232 CASTLEREAGH ST, SYDNEY NSW 2000.

MEETINGS OF C.I.E.T. — FIRST THURSDAY IN EVERY MONTH AT 39 McMINN ST, DARWIN NT. ALL WELCOME, 7.30 p.m.

C.I.E.T. CONTACT — BRIAN MANNING 81 8795 (Home) 81 6830 (Work)

NEWS TIPS FOR EAST TIMOR NEWS — DARWIN CORRESPONDENT ROB WESLEY-SMITH PHONE 89 7950 (Work) BOX 2155 DARWIN

RADIO MAUBERE — (IN ENGLISH, TETUM AND PORTUGUESE). 3.804 MHZ, 75M BAND SUNDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 6.30 p.m. C.I.E.T. LISTENING POST AT 14 HARNEY ST, LUDMILLA, AT THOSE TIMES.

LITERATURE ETC FROM THE TIMOR INFORMATION CENTRE PRESENTLY AT 39 McMINN STREET. HELP THE T.I.C. BY DONATING YOUR OLD BOOKS (ANY TYPE) PHONE 81 8795 FOR COLLECTION.

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THIS INFORMATION PAMPHLET IS PUBLISHED BY THE CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR, DARWIN BRANCH. **POSTAL ADDRESS** P.O. BOX 3743, DARWIN, N.T. AUSTRALIA 5794. DONATIONS ARE WELCOME.

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